

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 11, 15, 20, 22, and 27 are amended. No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-10, 12-14, 21, 23-26, and 28-33 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 11, 15, 20, 22, and 27 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Independent claims 1, 15 and 22 are amended, to recite respectively a computer system, a computer-readable storage storing a program for controlling a computer, and an information providing method, using claim 1 as an example, including:

“a first image to identify said one client and second images to identify other clients”
(based on dependent claim 2 cancelled herein);

“means for receiving . . . information indicating. . .,” “means for reading out. . .,” “forming means for forming. . .,” and “means for transmitting . . . the formed second display information”
(based on dependent claim 4 cancelled herein);

a “first display element” in the forming means (see, for example, “your advice” button 246 illustrated in FIG. 2 and page 8, starting at line 11);

“to instruct to input . . .” (see, for example, “the member clicks on the advice button 246” and step S91 on page 23);

a “second display element” in the forming means (see, for example, “expert advice request” button 230 illustrated in Fig. 2 and discussed on page 9);

“to instruct to send. . .” (see, for example, “click on the expert advice request button 230” and step S135, page 26, starting at line 23);

“means for transmitting . . . third display information” (see, for example, pages 8-9, starting at line 1);

“third display information” (see for example FIG. 3 illustrating permitting a member to enter a comment and pages 8-9);

“an instruction based on said first display element” (see, for example, “the member clicks on the advice button 246” and step S91 on page 23);

“an instruction based on said second display element” (see, for example, “click on the expert advice request button 230” and step S135 on page 26);

“means for registering a comment . . .” (based on dependent claim 6 cancelled);

“means for transmitting. . . and storing. . .” and the “means for receiving. . . and storing”
(based on dependent claim 6 cancelled herein);

an "inquiry" (see, for example, page 27); and
"wherein. . . received and stored." (based on cancelled claims 6 and 7).

Dependent claims 11, 20, and 27 are amended to recite respectively a computer system, a computer-readable storage storing a program for controlling a computer, and an information providing method, using claim 1 as an example, including "means for shuffling." (See, for example, "shuffling process" discussed on page 3).

No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

ITEMS 2-4: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 11, 15, 20, 22, AND 27 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 11, 15, 20, 22, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, and contends that the limitation "client representation information" is new matter.

Claims 1, 11, 15, 20, 22, and 27, all as amended, do not recite the feature "client representation information."

Applicants submit that claims 1, 11, 15, 20, 22, and 27, all as amended, comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph and request the rejection be withdrawn.

ITEMS 5-6: REJECTION OF INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 1, 15, AND 22 (AND RESPECTIVE DEPENDENT CLAIMS (2-14, 16-21, and 23-30) UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) BY HERZ

The Examiner rejects independent claims 1, 15, and 22 (and respective dependent claims 11, 20, and 27) under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Herz. (Action at pages 3-4).

Applicants submit that Herz does not support an anticipatory-type rejection by not teaching features recited in the present application's claims.

Independent claims 1, 15, and 22, all as amended, recite respectively a computer system, a computer-readable storage storing a program for controlling a computer, and an information providing method, using claim 1 as an example, including

"receiving client identification information from a terminal of one client means for transmitting, to said terminal of said one client, first display information in which a first image to identify said one client and second images to identify other clients, who belong to a genre registered by said one client in advance, are positioned at predetermined locations in response to receipt of said client identification information; . . .

receiving, from said terminal of said one client, information indicating an image selected from said first image and said second images; . . .

reading out information that matches an attribute registered in advance and that is about a client corresponding to the selected image; . . .

forming second display information corresponding to another client and including the read information about said another client and a first display element to instruct to input a comment from said one client to said another client, when said selected images is said second image, and for forming second display information corresponding to said one client and including the read information about said one client and a second display element to instruct to send a request for a comment from an expert in said genre registered in advance, when said selected image is said first image; . . .

transmitting to said terminal of said one client, the formed second display information; . . . transmitting to said terminal of said one client, third display information to allow said one client to input a comment from said one client to said another client, upon receipt of an instruction based on said first display element, and for transmitting to said terminal of said one client, third display information to allow said one client to input an inquiry to said expert, upon receipt of an instruction based on said second display element; means for registering a comment for said another client, upon receipt of said comment for said another client from said terminal of said one client; . . .

transmitting said inquiry to a terminal of said expert, upon receipt of said inquiry from said terminal for said one client; and . . .

receiving comment information from said terminal of said expert, and storing said comment information into a storage area for said one client; wherein said forming means includes the registered comment for said another client into said second display information corresponding to said another client after said registered comment for said another client was received and registered, and includes the stored comment information into said second display information corresponding to said one client after said stored comment information was received and stored."

According to aspects of the present invention, a computer system, for example, facilitates communication with other clients who belong to a genre registered in advance by one client and an expert, for example, in that genre. As recited in independent claims 1, 15, and 22 to communicate with other clients and the expert, "first display information" is firstly transmitted to a terminal of the one client.

By using the first display information, the one client can select the one client as himself/herself or alternatively can select the one client as another client. Herz does not teach, for example, that a client can select himself/herself, e.g., from the tree.

Furthermore, when another client is selected, "second display information" including the attributes of the another client and the "first display element to instruct to input a comment" to another client are transmitted. On the other hand, when the one client selects himself/herself, the "second display information" including the attributes of the one client, and the "second display element to instruct to send a request for a comment" from the expert, for example, are transmitted.

Herz does not teach such second display information. Further, Herz does not teach that when the one client himself/herself is selected that the one client can instruct to send a request for a comment from the expert, for example

In addition, the comment from the one client to another client or the comment information from the expert is included in the second display information after receiving the comment or the comment information.

Herz does not teach second display information including information only for the selected client further includes the comment from another client or the comment information from the expert to represent the indirect communication with other clients or the expert in the pre-registered genre.

Rather, Herz merely teaches virtual communities (see, for example, col. 72, line 61 – col. 78, line 28) in which a message is multicast to all users in multicast tree (see, for example, col. 78, line 24).

That is, Herz does not teach an ordered, step-wise and indirect communication method with other clients and the experts in the pre-registered genre.

Further, dependent claims recite features that are not taught by the cited art. Dependent claims 11, 20, and 27, all as amended, recite respectively a computer system, a computer-readable storage storing a program for controlling a computer, and an information providing method, using claim 11 as an example, including "receiving another request of said first display information from said terminal of said one client; . . . shuffling said locations of said first image and said second images; . . . transmitting the shuffled first display information in which said locations of said first image and said second images are shuffled to said terminal of said one client."

Herz merely teaches a "location of a target object in the menu is determined by the attribute of each target objects and so forth (see, for example, col. 65, line 52 – col. 66, line 21). Thus, Herz teaches away from a shuffling of a location of each article at a predetermined time interval.

Summary

Since features recited by claims 1, 11, 15, 20, 22, and 27 are not taught by the cited art, the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 1, 11, 15, 20, 22, and 27 allowed.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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